

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT The Polish Military Judicature

4 August 1948

DATE DISTR. 50X1-HUM

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 50X1-HUM

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- At the end of the war, former Polish judges and law officers reported for service in the Polish judicature. As many of them were not in favor of the principles of the present regime, especially as regards criminal law, the Government excluded all cases of a political character from the jurisdiction of the Polish general courts and transferred them to the military courts.
- During 1944 and 1945 the powers of the military judicature rested exclusively in the hands of Soviet officers. In 1946 there was a gradual departure of Soviet officers whose posts in the judicature were taken over by men trained and trusted by the Soviets, who carry out unreservedly the political program laid down by the present regime for "political crimes".
- Candidates for posts in the military judicature, although they endeavor to impress the nation that they represent ex-officio Polish public opinion, in reality represent only the Communist policy issuing from the governing strata. The few Poles whom they have succeeded in winning over to their views were placed in prominent posts in the judicature, but they are denied independence of action and are directed in their activities by the others. There are a few Soviet officers still left in the military judicature. They are engaged in controlling and instructing the others. The following is a list of some of the personnel employed in the military judicature:

Chief of the Judicature
and Prosecutor-in-Chief

Colonel Holder, Polish citizen. He was an articled clerk to a lawyer in Kolomja before the war.

First Deputy of the Prosecutor-in-Chief

Colonel Skulbaszowski - a Soviet officer who speaks little Polish.

Chief of Special Cases -
i.e. political trials

Lt. Col. Podlewski - Polish citizen who graduated in law in 1939.

Chief of Penal Department
(Amnesty Section)

Lt. Col. Halski - Polish citizen, a lawyer from Warsaw.

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Document No. 004

NO CHANGE in Class. DECLASSIFIED

Class. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

DDA Memo, 4 Apr '77

Auth: DDA REG. 77

Date: 20 APR 1978B

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4. The post of chairman of the Military Supreme Court, previously held by 50X1-HUM a Soviet officer, was taken over by Wladyslaw Czarnowski, former District Judge at Rzeszow, who was known "Sanacja" leader before the war.

[redacted]
His deputy is Dr. 50X1-HUM
Romuald Klonow, former District Officer of the Lwow district, also a member of the "Sanacja" before the war.

Note: "Sanacja" was the ruling political group in Poland up to 1959, led by the late Marshal Pilsudski and continued by his successors after his death. It is worth noting that the more important posts in the judiciary today are held not only by Communists and Soviet officers, but also by some ex-"Sanacja" adherents, who have made a complete volte-face in becoming Communist followers.

5. When dealing with political cases, all judiciary of the first instance is carried out by the regional military courts and Military Prosecutors' offices. A very careful selection has been made from among judges and prosecutors, and all persons who appeared to be in the slightest degree uncertain or not sufficiently loyal have been replaced by Communist elements.

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